

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image processing apparatus for a laser printer, wherein a halftone control through laser pulse modulation (PWM) is used in combination with distributed clustered-dot halftone processing which distributes a tone level over four clustered-dots, and the value represented by higher bits of a threshold are used to switch a PWM pulse pattern in a highlight area to a discontinuous pattern, thereby implementing the high density halftone processing, which provides a high highlight tone density and stability, only with a small scale memory and circuit.